

ONE HUNDRED YEARS
OF SINGAPORE

BEING SOME ACCOUNT OF THE CAPITAL OF THE
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FROM ITS FOUNDATION
BY SIR STAMFORD RAFFLES ON THE 6TH
FEBRUARY 1819 TO THE 6TH FEBRUARY 1919

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- 6th June, Medical Superintendent Lunatic Asylum, Singapore; 1910, 1st Jan., P.C.M.O., S.S.; 1910, 30th June, Official Member Leg. Council, S.S.; 1917, 8th Oct., died General Hospital, Singapore, and buried with military honours.
17. Croucher, Francis B., M.B., C.M.: 1866, 30th Nov., born; 1893, 15th Oct., House Surg., Singapore; 1897, 1st Jan., Col. Surg., Malacca; 1908, 23rd Sept., Senior Medical Officer, Penang; Feb. 1911-Feb. 1912, Acting P.C.M.O., S.S.; 1911, 28th March, Senior Medical Officer General Hospital, Singapore; 1914, 1st Jan., title changed to Chief Medical Officer, Singapore; Oct. 1917-July 1918, Acting P.C.M.O.
18. Lucy, Sidney Herbert Reginald, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.: 1868, 1st July, born; 1894, 7th Sept., Dist. Surg., Perak; 1897, 16th Aug., Dist. Surg., Selangor; 1903, 1st Jan., State Surg., Pahang; 1905, 1st June, Col. Surg. Resdt., Penang; 1908, 1st Jan., Senior Medical Officer, Penang; 1910, 1st April, Senior Medical Officer, Perak; 1911, 1st Jan., Senior Health Officer (Federal); 1918, 20th July, P.C.M.O., S.S.

RAFFLES LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, SINGAPORE

By Dr. R. Hanitsch, Ph.D., formerly Director

The history of a library and museum in Singapore readily falls into three periods, commencing respectively as follows :

- (1) From its foundation, in 1823, as an integral part of the Singapore Institution (later called the Raffles Institution) ;
- (2) From the establishment, in 1844, of the Singapore Library, a proprietary concern, supported by a number of shareholders, in connection with which in 1849 a museum was formed ;
- (3) From the taking over by Government, in 1874, both of Library and Museum, henceforth called the Raffles Library and Museum.

1823-44

The conception of a library and museum for Singapore dates back to the 1st April 1823, when, under the presi-

SUBSCRIBERS

In 1875, the year after the Library had been taken over by Government, there were nine life members (the last surviving "Proprietors" of the "Singapore Library"), fifty first-class and 131 second-class subscribers. In 1904 a third class was instituted. At present first-class subscribers are entitled to four books at a time, for a yearly payment of \$12; second-class to two books, for \$8; and third-class to one book, for \$4. The last life member was the Honourable Thomas Shelford, C.M.G., who died in 1899.

There has been a steady rise in the number of subscribers, especially so within the last few years. At the beginning of the War there was a marked drop, but after that a rapid and unprecedented increase, perhaps best accounted for by the opening of the new Library building in 1916, which the public find very much more attractive than the old place, with its cramped accommodation.

The cosmopolitan character of the subscribers has repeatedly been remarked upon in the annual reports. The report for 1912 enumerates the following nationalities: British (308), French (5), Dutch (4), Russian (2), American (2), German (1), Danish (1), Italian (1), Eurasian (13), Chinese (23), Malay (6), Armenian (3), Singalese (3), Japanese (3), Jewish (3), Tamil (3), Arab (1), Bengalese (1), Bombay (1), Javanese (1).

The subscriptions amount now to roughly \$3,500 per annum.

MUSEUM: ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTION

This section constitutes the main part of the Museum. There is an *Illustrated Guide*, published in 1908, which explains its chief features, and is at the same time meant to serve as a popular introduction to the study of the Malayan fauna.

The oldest specimen in the Museum, as far as the records go back, is the larger of the two rhinoceros skeletons. We read in the *Singapore Daily Times* of the

13th May 1875 that "Sir Andrew Clarke has presented the Zoological Department of the Gardens with a fine female two-horned rhinoceros. The animal is a magnificent specimen, and is besides in calf. She is a native of the Peninsula, and was a present to Sir Andrew Clarke from the Datu Klana of Sunghei Ujong." However, in February 1877 the Gardens Committee had become tired of the animal, and "it was agreed that the Rhinoceros should be got rid of, and the matter be left in Mr. Krohn's hands." Mr. Krohn was member of the Gardens Committee, and in charge of the animals. So in August following the animal was handed over to the Museum. The other skeleton, from British North Borneo, was presented by Mr. Rowe in 1901. The stuffed rhinoceros from Perak, a female, was presented in 1902 by Mr. R. von Pustau, Acting Consul for Austria. The stuffed sĕladang, a cow, was the gift, in 1889, of Mr. (later Sir) J. P. Rodger, Resident of Pahang, whilst the skeleton, that of a young bull, was given in the same year by Captain H. C. Syers and Mr. W. C. Michell. Both specimens were obtained in Pahang. In addition, there is a fine series of sĕladang horns, given at various times by Mr. A. D. Machado, Mr. H. Bertrand Roberts, and Dato Hole of Johore.

The elephant skeleton is that of a specimen (male) shot by H.H. the Sultan of Johore near Senai in November 1909. The work of preparing it was done on the spot, a full account of which was given in the *Singapore Free Press* of the 22nd November of that year. Other gifts of His Highness are the tiger, exhibited in the hall of the Museum, and the large black panther.

There are shown several examples of the deer (the Malay Sambar or Rusa). One of them was shot by Mr. Ridley near Changi in 1891, and the Museum is indebted to him for many other specimens, especially at the time when there was a small zoological department attached to the Gardens.

Only last year (1917) a gap in the collection was filled by the gift of two serows: the one from Annam,

presented by two French gentlemen, M. L. Chochod and M. G. Saint-Poulof; and the other from Sumatra, presented by Mr. P. Jansen, T. Pzn, and Mr. C. J. Brooks.

The skeleton of the Indian whale, measuring 42 feet in length, is that of a specimen stranded near Malacca in 1892. The Honourable D. F. A. Hervey, then Resident Councillor of Malacca, caused the skeleton to be prepared and to be conveyed to Singapore, but owing to lack of space it could not be mounted and exhibited till 1907.

The most generous of donors in recent years was Dr. W. L. Abbott. There are many animals in the Museum from his expeditions to Sumatra, Borneo, and neighbouring islands, the group of proboscis monkeys being the most striking of his gifts.

Of birds, more than 1,300 specimens are exhibited, representing about 680 different species. The great majority are, of course, Malayan, but there are a few game birds from the Himalayas, some parrots from the Eastern Archipelago, and a fine set of Birds of Paradise from New Guinea and neighbouring islands. Of local birds, perhaps the most showy are an Argus pheasant, from the Dindings, presented by Mr. R. J. Wilkinson in 1902, and one from Indragiri, Sumatra, presented by Mr. J. E. Romenij in 1905.

Of reptiles, there is a specimen of the rare leathery turtle, from Siglap, Singapore, presented by the Honourable A. M. Skinner in 1883, and a huge crocodile, measuring 15½ feet, from Serangoon, shot and presented by Mr. G. P. Owen in 1887.

Much progress has been made in recent years in the collection of fishes, stuffed and painted in their natural colours, and the Museum is indebted to Mr. C. H. Clarke and Mr. W. Perreau, Inspectors of Markets, for the greater part of the material.

The exhibited butterflies and moths fill two long rows of cases. The majority are Malayan; but there are several cases of butterflies from Lower Burma, the Philippines, and Celebes, given by Mr. H. Wilfred Walker in 1904 and 1905, and one case, from Celebes,

given by Dr. Martin in 1907. Most other insects are in cabinets, but are always accessible to persons interested in entomology.

The marine fauna of the neighbourhood is intensely interesting, but there have never been sufficient time and facilities for its study. However, the Museum contains fair collections of molluscs, crustaceans, worms, echinoderms, zoophytes, corals and sponges. Some mother-of-pearl shells, obtained near Singapore in three fathoms of water, were presented by Mr. W. F. C. Asimont in 1906. Scientifically the most interesting gifts were the numerous specimens (sea lilies, polyzoa, corals, and sponges) from telegraph cables, presented, about twenty years ago, by Mr. (now Captain) W. Maclear Ladds. Much welcome help in enlarging and working out the marine collections was given in 1899 by the late Mr. F. P. Bedford and Mr. W. F. Lanchester, both of Cambridge, who spent several months here studying the marine fauna. The neighbouring seas are specially rich in corals, and there are cases showing collections from Blakang Mati, from Gaya, British North Borneo (1899), and from Christmas Island (1904).

BOTANICAL COLLECTION

No attempt has yet been made to have a complete botanical collection in the Museum. However, there are samples of wood, fibres, and essential oils, and especially a series of models of local fruit and vegetables, prepared by the Assistant Curator, Mr. V. Knight, and the Taxidermist, Mr. P. M. de Fontaine. These models have always been attractive, and are of much interest to visitors. They are casts, in paraffin wax, or more satisfactorily in plaster of Paris, of the actual fruits, painted in their natural colours, and are, at least to timid passengers who have not yet explored the possibilities of an Eastern fruit market, in some respects preferable to the real article.

THE GEOLOGICAL SECTION

There is, besides a general collection of typical rocks and minerals, a fair collection of specimens from the